

I rise in strong opposition to the budget-busting legislation that fails to create one new job and returns our health decisions to insurance companies rather than doctors.

Repealing the health reform law would be a big mistake. Instead of focusing on job creation or retirement security or fair taxes, we're debating repealing a law that protects Americans from insurance company abuses and provides fairer and more accessible health care for children, for veterans, for seniors, for employees, for employers. The law saves the average taxpayer money, and it saves the insured money.

On Monday, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Dr. King fought for an America where everyone regardless of race or class background had access to the American opportunity. He said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

Today, the new majority is trying to repeal the health reform law that we enacted just one year ago. That historic law provides secure health insurance coverage to almost all Americans and lowers the deficit. The days of "you're on your own" are past now. The law ensures that health insurance companies actually have to provide health insurance, not just in name, but it requires that they spend your premium dollars on actually providing health care.

If this reform law were repealed, Anna's 24-year-old son in Kendall Park, New Jersey would become uninsured; Todd from Eatontown would not be able to get insurance due to his preexisting condition; and thousands of seniors on Medicare, like Howard from Monroe, would not be able to afford his lifesaving prescriptions.

Matthew from West Windsor wrote me to say, "I just graduated from college, and I'm working at a job with no health care." He's grateful now that he can be on his parents' health insurance plan, but he's concerned if this is repealed. He says, "I have a preexisting condition, and shockingly, I truly would be without insurance and in deep trouble if this law were reversed."

I urge my colleagues to vote no on repealing the health care reform law.